



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

January 31, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-218
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Mr. Boehner, Chairman Obey and Mr. Lewis,

As you develop the Emergency Supplemental to fund vital government programs, I urge you to include language to reauthorize and fully fund an extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393). This program provides a critical fiscal lifeline to over 49 rural counties in California alone.

P.L. 106-393 expired at the end of September 2006. If it is not reauthorized and funded, rural counties across California and the United States will experience a devastating cut in funding for essential services. This law was passed by Congress to provide funding to offset the loss of revenues to counties resulting from severely reduced federal timber sales. The law helps many small, rural communities maintain essential public services including school operations, road maintenance and lifesaving search and rescue operations. The federal government made a pact with rural communities nearly a century ago when it established the federal timber sale program to provide counties a portion of revenue from federal timber sales.



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California receives \$69 million each year under this program. Because of the federal government's failure to reauthorize and fund P.L. 106-393, my proposed budget provides temporary loans to rural counties in my state to help mitigate the loss of these federal funds. This action is not intended to excuse the federal responsibility to rural counties in my state. Instead, it is intended to provide temporary relief while you work toward full reauthorization and funding of P.L. 106-393.

In 2000, Congress demonstrated its commitment to continue the pact they made with rural counties by passing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. To not reauthorize and fund the Act would break the federal government's pledge to these rural communities all across the country. The Emergency Supplemental would be the last opportunity to address this issue before counties will be forced to make cuts to schools and other essential public services.

Thank you for your serious consideration of including language to reauthorize and fully fund P.L. 106-393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", with a stylized, flowing script.

Arnold Schwarzenegger